

# Governor's Water Augmentation Council

## Desalination Committee

### January 29, 2018 Meeting Summary

**Time: 1:00pm – 3:00pm**

**Location: Arizona Department of Water Resources**

#### *Welcome and Introductions*

Chairman Robert Lotts called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. All participants introduced themselves individually. The following member of the Governor's Water Augmentation Council (GWAC) was present: Wade Noble.

#### *Overview of the West Valley Water Association*

Mark Holmes, the Water Resources Manager for the City of Goodyear, presented a brief overview of the West Valley Water Association (WVWA), formerly known as WESTCAPS. The WVWA was formed to be an action-based organization focused on identifying ways to preserve, protect, enhance, and develop the quality and quantity of water resources within the West Valley. One of its objectives is to bring about the institution and advancement of programs and/or projects for the conservation, development, administration, and protection of water resources in the West Valley. The WVWA is organized with an Executive Director, sustaining members (entities, trusts, or individuals that have legal authority to manage, control, or own greater than 100 acre-feet of water resources, water rights, and/or infrastructure within the Phoenix AMA west of the I-17 freeway) and non-voting regular members (individuals or organizations who have an interest in supporting the objectives and purposes of the WVWA). The overall strategic plan of the WVWA is to ensure the West Valley's success in development, economic prosperity, and quality of life.

Currently, WVWA is conducting a Basin Study in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation that involves Lake Pleasant, Hassayampa, West Salt River, and Rainbow Valley basins. The study will quantify supply and demand imbalances as well as the impacts of climate change and groundwater withdrawals in the future. Once completed, the organization will look at potential mitigation strategies to overcome these challenges.

Mr. Lotts questioned whether the WVWA would be the preferred entity for the Committee to engage with in the future. Mr. Holmes stated that he thought it would be helpful for the Committee to be placed on an agenda of a WVWA meeting and it was agreed that a future date would be identified to achieve that.

Mr. Holmes' presentation may be viewed on the ADWR website [here](#).

#### *Discussion on the Buckeye Waterlogged Area*

Richard Humphreys, a Project Manager with Carollo Engineers, Inc., provided a presentation titled "Buckeye Waterlogged Area Could Provide Water for Growth". The presentation included projected water supply and demand for the cities of Buckeye and Goodyear and illustrated that if both cities were

to reach their maximum buildout populations according to the land use assumptions within their general plans, they would incur water supply deficits of 40,500 acre-feet per year in Goodyear and 216,000 acre-feet per year in Buckeye. His presentation identified that both cities need to consider additional water resources beyond reclaimed water and conservation efforts in order to fully develop. Mr. Humphreys noted that disposing of the concentrated brine into evaporation ponds after treatment would raise the cost a project exponentially and his summary slide concluded that: (1) reducing brine disposal costs is key to making brackish groundwater an economically viable water supply, and (2) the *“uncertainty surrounding the future of the groundwater replenishment exemption is a major hindrance to the investment to treat the brackish groundwater in the waterlogged area.”*

Mr. Humphreys’ presentation may be viewed on the ADWR website [here](#).

### *ADEQ Proposed Changes to Statute (New Agenda Item)*

Trevor Baggione, the Water Quality Division Director for the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ), stated that ADEQ intends to introduce a bill which would revise the process in which underground injection wells are regulated and give ADEQ primacy over the Environmental Protection Agency in this area. Mr. Baggione reviewed the current process and how the legislative change would impact that process. Of import to this Committee is that the new legislation would remove currently existing prohibitions on deep well injection of brine in Arizona.

### *Items for GWAC Meeting and Next Desalination Committee Agenda*

Mr. Lotts will determine agenda items for the next committee meeting within a few months.

### *Closing Remarks and Next Meeting Date*

The date and location for the next Desalination Committee meeting will be determined.